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Hanson Fire at Old Plymouth County Hospital Arson

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Hanson Fire Chief Jerome A. Thompson said the fire discovered still smoldering this morning at the Old Plymouth County Hospital at 224 High Street in Hanson was intentionally set. The fire was discovered by police officers making routine patrols this morning. It had been set sometime in the past 18 hours but had self-extinguished.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Fortunately no one was injured fighting this fire. Vacant building fires are extremely dangerous to firefighters because they get a head start before anyone notices it and because of the dangers posed by the interior of the structure. More firefighter injuries occur fighting fires in vacant buildings than anywhere else."

Chief Thompson said, "There have been past fire fires in this building and two adults and two juveniles were arrested for setting a 2005 fire. I would ask the public if they have any information about this fire to call the fire department, the police department or the confidential Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229."

The Arson Hotline is part of the statewide Arson Watch Reward Program sponsored by the property and casualty insurance companies in Massachusetts. It provides rewards of up to \$5,000 to solve the crime of arson.

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Hanson Fire Department, Hanson Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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